

Speech of Prof. Ursula Männle

Chairwoman, Hanns Seidel Foundation
HSF Philippines' 40th Anniversary Conference
08 August 2019, Dusit Thani Hotel

Warmest greetings to all!

It is a pleasure and privilege to be back in your beautiful country. Seeing all of you today in commemoration of 40 years of HSF development cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines makes my visit more special.

Forty years seem to be a long time indeed but the remarkable success of our mission in this part of the world gives us more reason for our continuous effort to support the national development agenda, especially in good governance, poverty reduction, and international exchange and understanding.

Throughout the years, the Hanns Seidel Foundation has supported both pioneering and sustainable programs and projects which have created a positive impact towards the socio-economic growth and development of your country. It has conscientiously provided development assistance to the Filipino people through our local partners in the government and non-government sectors consistent with the direction and purpose of our partner-country and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Our long-standing and mutually-beneficial cooperation with the Philippines has accomplished several milestones. Together with our partners, we are happy to share with you later on our 40th-year anniversary publication which will walk us through the highlights of our collaborative work since 1979 up to the present. This is a testament of the results and impact of our invaluable partnership and a document to help remember us by.

At this juncture, please allow me to reminisce our beginnings here in your country. Just like any newcomer, we started our operations small with only a few staff. Our first office was in Malate, Manila. As you will see in our publication, since then up until now, there have been seven (7) country representatives/project managers assigned in the Philippines.

Our programs, projects and activities in the Philippines brought us to the 3 major islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; 17 administrative regions; 39 provinces; 7 presidencies as well as in 9 Asia-Pacific countries and 6 European countries. We have supported at least 25

programs/projects, worked with 20 major partners and countless number of stakeholders who participated in our joint activities in the country. We have established genuine partnerships and made our presence felt within the development community. Our contributions in the development of your country was made more meaningful with the “Congressional Medal of Achievement” bestowed on the Hanns Seidel Foundation in 2004.

It is also important to share with you that the Foundation turned another page in history as it celebrated its 50 years of establishment two years ago marked with special events in Germany and in project offices worldwide. We shall continue to dedicate our work worldwide ‘in the service of Democracy, Peace and Development” guided by the vision of our founder, former Prime Minister of the Free State of Bavaria and Chairman of the Christian Social Union, Dr. Hanns Seidel. With operations in more than 60 countries worldwide which are financed mainly by the German federal government and the Free State of Bavaria, we shall endeavor to pursue our work particularly in the Philippines in areas that will help in strengthening human resource and institutional capacities.

Without a doubt, the Philippines has made significant achievements over the years with favorable socio-economic indicators at par with its neighbors in Asia. With your continuous support, HSF reaffirms its commitment to work with you and the Philippine government and build on the path to further growth and development. We hope to strengthen partnerships, build more synergies, and foster opportunities for greater understanding in support of the government’s aspirations for a better life for all Filipinos. It has been a fruitful and meaningful journey for all of us as look forward to a brighter future ahead.

Finally, let me express my deep appreciation and gratitude to our esteemed partners and stakeholders from all over the country for your continuing support and cooperation-you have given us the reason to believe that we have achieved much but more needs to be done to be able to sustain our gains. To the officers and staff of the HSF Philippine office then and now, we honor your commitment and hard work-this shall serve well for the benefit of the country and Filipino people. To all our friends in the country, we hope you will always be at our side and thank you for sharing your views and insights as we pursue our work in the country.

Vielen Dank! Mabuhay!